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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Lt. Governor Kinder on Autism Legislation

JEFFERSON CITY – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today issued the following statement the legislature's passage of House Bill 1311:

"Today, legislators in the Missouri General Assembly joined together in bipartisan fashion to pass a comprehensive plan to address autism spectrum disorders in the State of Missouri.

"1 in 110 children across America have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. This legislation will be a tremendous step forward in helping families deal with these challenging disorders.

"In 2008, I was proud to sign Senate Bill 768 into law to create the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders and the Office of Autism Services in the Department of Mental Health. Over the past five years, Missouri has invested tens of millions of dollars in early detection, diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum disorders in our state.

"This legislation also shows the importance of allowing states to control their own health care options without interference by the federal government.

"I am honored to congratulate Sen. Scott Rupp, Sen. Eric Schmitt and Rep. Dwight Scharnhorst for their tireless efforts in championing the bi-partisan effort in passing this important piece of legislation."

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